Allocution pendant la séance d'ouverture du dernier jour du Troisième Congrès Européen de la Gériatrie Clinique

L.

van der Horst

Amsterdam

Ladies and Gentlemen,

May I welcome you to this session of the last conference day. This welcome mainly concerns all the general practitioners, who – occupied by their daily work – had only one day at their disposal and will spend this free Saturday on old age problems. For it is the general practitioner who first of all has to treat and to care for aged patients. We intend to discuss three questions mentioned by the practitioners: adaptability, nutrition and sexual problems.

Very many mentally and physically disabled old people remain in the community and are not treated in hospitals and nursing homes. That is what we learned from Marjory Warren one of the pioneers in the field of geriatrics. She was a member of the governing body of the International Association of Gerontology. I should like to pay a warm tribute to her memory before we start our scientific work. She died after a car accident near Metz. We know her in her devotion to her profession and in her contribution to her chosen speciality. It is perhaps significant that the last act of her life was connected with her work for the aged – she was on a journey to a meeting to present a paper on "The rehabilitation of the elderly". She had the vision to see that old people

lying in rows of hospital beds

were capable of restoration to more active life. Her work gained international recognition; she travelled extensively

advising and lecturing on various aspects of the problem of the aged. Dr. Warren was a dignified figure with a vivid personality; she had the highest moral values

giving generously of herself

her time

her experience

and her wisdom. She saw the problems which the family doctors meet daily in our ageing society; she will be greatly missed by the whole medical profession. We pay her a memorable tribute by organizing this day.